

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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THE JAMES BOYS STORIES

By Ralph F. Cummings

Lots of members have written in wanting an article on the James Boys in various Weeklies, Libraries, etc., and as I haven't written an article for so long, I've gotten kind of out of the hang of it, but will see what I can do here. To start with stories about the James Boys and their cousins and other relations appeared in many of our novels. John R. Musick wrote the greater part of them, under the pen name of D. W. Stevens. Many of the stories appeared in Boys of New York, Golden Weekly, Young Men of America, Wide Awake Library, New York Detective Library, New York Weekly, Log Cabin Library; also pocket editions, Old Cap Collier Library, Boys of New York, Pocket Library, Morrison's Sensational Series, American Weekly, Jesse James Stories, James Boys Weekly, Adventure Series, New York Ledger, Bandit Stories, and other papers. Here is a special number of the Old Cap Collier Library, No. 58—"Frank James' Mistake" or "Compelled to Surrender", 56 pages. This story is well illustrated, of which many of the illustrations appeared on the front covers in Morrison's Sensational Series, such as No. 4, The James Boys; No. 25, Jesse James and His Pals; No. 37, Jesse James Last Shot; No. 46, Frank James on the Trail. Looks to me as if all the stories in Morrison's Sensational Series were all cut up into short 16 page stories, all coming from the one story of Frank James' Mistake in Old Cap Collier Library,

special. Billy the kid is also mentioned in the same story. He is in Morrison's No. 3. Billy the Kid, No. 20; Billy the Kid and His Girl, 23; Billy the Kid and the Cowboys, 26; and Billy the Kid, No. 2. Whether they also came out of this story, I don't know, but don't think so.

Frank James, the Avenger, No. 81, appeared in The Boys of New York Library, being a 30 page story. Other stories in this Library are No. 76, The Life and Death of Jesse James.

Then again in No. 629 of Old Cap Collier Library appeared, His Brother's Avenger, or Frank James on Bob Ford's Track, by S. A. D. Cox, 26 pages. It seems that Street & Smith held the copyright. In that case, then these other publishers did the borrowing, etc.—Munros, Westbrook, Bonner; but where does Frank Tousey come in? So in that case, they both held copyrights. Maybe some one will put me straight on this. As we continue along, more than half of the James stories published, were gotten out by Frank Tousey in New York Detective Library and the James Boys Weekly. Here's a funny thing, Richard K. Fox of the famous Police Gazette, brought out in 1881, The Outlaw Brothers, Frank and Jesse James, or Lives and Adventures of the Scourges of the Plains. Gives the Life and Death of Jesse James, who died April 3rd, 1882., of which came out in the Police Gazette Series of Famous Criminals, No. 2. Guess they got their dates twisted. There are 68 pages., well illustrated. According to the book on "Bella Starr" that appeared a short time ago, the story is full of the untruth. Maybe

so, but we'll let it rest there.

John R. Musick wrote a number of stories on the James Boys in the New York Ledger. One of them being "The Mysterious Mr. Howard." Many of the stories that appeared in Log Cabin Library were hair raisers. Some of the stories were—J. James in Chicago, J. J. in New Orleans, J. J. on the Mississippi, J. J. Cave, J. J. at Bay, J. J. in Disguise, J. J. in Tennessee, J. J. Among the Mormans, J. J. Journey, J. J. in Dakota, J. J. Hunt to Death, J. J. Shadow, J. J. Outdone, Bob Ford—Jesse James' Slayer, A Louisiana Jesse James, Just Like the James Boys, J. J. Legacy, The James Boys Against the World's Record, J. J. New Deal, The James Brothers' Big Prize, The James Boys Driven to the Wall, J. J. Daredevil Dance, J. J. Black Agents, J. J. at Coney Island, J. J. in New York, J. J., Rube Burrows & Co., J. J. Double, J. J. Successor, The James Boys, and others.

I read Jesse James Legacy, or the Border Cyclone, and it was a hum-dinger. Don't remember the pure facts, as I read it over ten years ago. All these stories in Log Cabin Library, yes, in all the Street & Smith novels, were by W. B. Lawson. This was a stock name for several writers, such as Geo. C. Jenks, Robert Russell, and others. The Dalton Boys, and other stories were written under Lawson.

Jesse also appeared in the pocket edition of Log Cabin Library, reprints of those which appeared in the large size Library.

Pawnee Bill and Jesse James appeared in both the Diamond Dick Lby. 174, and Midget Library No. 129. Then Jesse had a run of it, in the Jesse James Stories, Nos. 1 to 139. Most of them were reprints from other Street & Smith publication, such as Log Cabin, etc., No. 1, Jesse James the Outlaw. A narrative of the James Boys was republished December 1938 to go with the movie starring Tyrone Power in Jesse James. I saw the picture, and it was fine, such as it was. Henry Fonda played the part of Frank James. I remember when Uncle Billie Benners took me to the Stanley Theatre in Philadelphia to see Jesse James, all in technicolor, January 27th, 1939. They had quiz

contests for the fans on the Lore of Jesse James, in The Philadelphia Inquirer, one of the big newspapers down there.

I saw Roy Rogers in "Days of Jesse James" at the Garden Theatre down in Philly. That was good too, although I saw it at a cheap show down there. I also saw Henry Fonda in "The Return of Frank James", in technicolor. That was a ripper, too.

The Real Story of Jesse James, America's most notorious desperado, appeared in True Detective Mysteries for August 1939, as a continued story. Bowen & Co. of Chicago, Ill., brought out the "James Boys in Missouri" for 15c. No date, but presume it to be in the 90's.

Flynn's Magazine also had an account of 'em. The Arthur Westbrook Co., of Cleveland, Ohio brought out a series called the Adventure Series. They had over 35 stories about Jesse and Frank James, in paper book form, by Wm. Ward, a stock name. A fine series, and fast getting rare and scarce, and very hard to get. Westbrook also brought out some of the James Boys stories in the "American Indian Weekly. Nos. 26 to 31, I believe are the only ones in this weekly, 4 or 5 numbers, such as Doom of the Banded Brothers, The Witch of Devil Whirlpool, etc. Westbrook also brought out a Life of Jesse, called "Jesse James, My Father."

I. & M. Ottenheimer of Baltimore, Md., brought out a series of thick paper books, called "The Bandit Series," written by Capt. Kennedy, such as Jesse James Manhunter, J. J. Daring Leap, etc. There were only 4 or 5 of these, but they too are very scarce now.

Then the Royal Book Publishers of Connecticut, through I. & M. Ottenheimer, of Baltimore, Md., brought out a Bandit Series of the Lives of the James Boys, in every form they could think of, such as "Frank and Jesse James", "Jesse and His Brother Frank," "The James Gang in Missouri", "The James Brothers' Bank & Train Robbers," and so on. Another hard series to find. Before we go any farther, let's skip back to Frank Tousey's publications.

A few numbers of Jesse James appeared in the Wide Awake Library which are extremely scarce. Such as

The Train Robbers, or A Story of the James Boys, #440, The James Boys as Guerrillas, 457; The James Boys and the Vigilants, 162; The James Boys and the Ku Klux, 466; The James Boys in California, 469; The James Boys as Train Wreckers, 474; The James Boys in Minnesota, 479; The James Boys as Highwaymen, 482; The James Boys Longest Chase, 488. All these were reprinted in the New York Detective Library. There were two series, the first being No. 342, Chasing the James Boys, then with 641 they started reprinting them again. They sure ran some fine stories in this library. Some of the stories, were—The James Boys and the Midnight Express, The Masked Horseman, Mysterious Ike, or The Masked Unknown, The James Boys Fatal Night, and many others.

Thomas Doughty also wrote many of the James Boys adventures with Old King Brady, such as—Old King Brady and the James Boys, Old King Brady and the James Boys in the Black Hills, Old King Brady and the Ford Boys and so on. Mr. Doughty also wrote other fine stories, such as Old King Brady and the Red Leather Bay, Old King Brady and Billy the Kid, Old King Brady in Ireland and other stories. And the artist who drew the illustrations for the front covers knew his business, for he did a fine job.

No. 416, Frank Reade, the Inventor, chasing the James Boys with his Steam Team is another dandy. The first of the Jesse James in N. Y. Detective Library, came out in black and white covers. Then they had from in the 500's up, both red and yellow covers, 3 columns to the page, and 30 or more pages to the story, size 9x12½ inches, with a nice list of a couple of hundred titles on the back page. No. 444, Jim Cummins and the Detective, or Wild Adventures on the Missouri, is one of the James Gang. No. 442, Mysterious Ike, or the Masked Unknown. There are two Mysterious Ikes when you near the end of the story. They are the wives of Jesse and Frank James, and save them at every turn when they are in danger, all dressed in black, and black horses as well.

Tousey also brought out a Weekly, called "The James Boys Weekly, Nos. 1 to 138, in 1901. I have No. 122, "The

James Boys and Cole Younger, or the Raid on the Stillwater Penitentiary. The illustration must have been drawn by a comical man, as the drawing would fit a story better in the Comic Library. The date is April 24, 1903. 2 columns to the page. 30 pages of reading matter, fine print. You would need a dozen pairs of glasses to read that kind of print, now a days. All the Tousey publications on the James Boys were written by D. W. Stevens, otherwise known as John R. Musick.

There's a fine article on John R. Musick in the Yankee Blade. Must see if I can find it as it's worthy to the Roundup readers.

The New York Detective Library was first published in 1883 and ended in 1898 with No. 801.

Thus ends my article on the James Boys Stories.

The End

P. S.—Joe Gantner has a fine article, entitled, "Was That Jesse James," to come out in a future number.

BEADLES POCKET LIBRARY REPRINT OF BEADLES BOYS LIBRARY

By "Deadwood Dick Jr."

It has been suggested by the editor that I write something about the various issues of Beadles Boys Library that were reprinted in Beadles Pocket Library. So here goes for a few of them.

It is well known among Beadle collectors that a very large part of the Half Dime Library were reprinted in the Pocket Library under original titles. Perhaps not so generally known however, that in many cases the titles were changed completely. At least 75 issues were changed. Possibly more.

For example Half Dime #21, Ellis' "Frontier Angel," appeared as #173 Pocket Library under title of "Dick Dingle, Scout". And #78 Half Dime, Mayne Reid's "Blue Dick," appears as #102 of Pocket Library under title of "The Yellow Chief."

This just to give you some idea as to how titles were changed in the Pocket Library edition from the Half Dime Library edition of same tale.

But this is all aside from what I

started out to state. My little article is to deal chiefly with the change in titles from the Boys Library to Pocket Library. 40, possibly more of these tales were changed in title.

A good one to start with is #1 Beadles Boys Library, "Adventures of Buffalo Bill" from "Boyhood to Manhood," by Col. Prentice Ingraham. Reprinted as #2 of the small size Boys Library, under same title..

Just recently I got in a fine copy of Pocket Library #388 titled "The Pony Express Rider, or, Buffalo Bill from Boyhood to Manhood." A word for word reprint of the earlier Boys Library editions. Incidentally, this was to be reprinted as #2 of the Ivers tri-color edition of the Boys Library. However in the catalogue list #2 is omitted from list of 64 issues.

A story was going the rounds, and generally believed, that Ivers in setting up the issue, accidentally broke the cover plate and so was unable to bring out that issue. However, this myth was exploded a few years back by a Brother collector who claims to have a complete file of the Ivers edition including #2. This goes to prove that Ivers brought out at least one complete edition before the plate broke.

However, the majority of collectors of the Ivers edition of Boys Library must be satisfied with 63 issues of the Library unless they care to fill in with an original copy of the tale, in the Pocket Library edition.

I never saw a copy of the tale in the two issues of Boys Library, so am unable to say just what kind of a cover illustration either bore. But the Pocket Library edition contains a cover illustration of a Pony Express rider dashing along at full speed. Exactly the same illustration that appeared in enlarged form on Beadles Dime Library #517.

Another one that I have is Pocket Library #420 titled, "Pat Mulroony's Pard; or, Exploits of Hezekiah Smith the Backwoodsman," by Emerson Rodman. This is reprinted from #116 Boys Library, also appeared in the small size edition of same. However, the Boys Library editions were titled "Exploits of Hezekiah Smith". Aside from these three editions of the tale I find that it had previously appear-

ed in Frank Starr's American Novels #49 under title of "Mad Anthony's Scouts." And it appeared also under the latter title in Beadles Pocket Novels #61.

Incidentally it is said that Hezekiah Smith was a real character. However real information about him is very meager beyond the fact that he really did serve as a scout under Gen. Anthony Wayne. I once read a historical work on several of General Wayne's campaigns and there Hezekiah Smith was mentioned once or twice as a scout. Aside from this I never read of him except in dime novels and that only rarely.

All Beadle collectors consider the biographical items of most value, I think. At least I do. And the Boys Library were rich in these, many of which were reprinted in Pocket Library. Here's a few of them. Original large size Boys Library #9 is titled "Bruin Adams, O.d Grizzly Adams Boy Pard, by Col. Prentice Ingraham. Next reprinted as #5 is the small size Boys Library under same title. Next appeared in Pocket Library #433 under title of "Old Grizzly in the Rockies."

"White Beaver, the Indian Medicine Chief; or, The Romantic and Adventurous Life of Dr. Frank Powell," by Col. Prentice Ingraham appeared as #32 in both large and small editions of the Boys Library. Reprinted in Pocket Library under title of "Fancy Frank's Drop." "Pony Bob (Haslam) the Reckless Rider of the Rockies," by Col. Prentice Ingraham, #83 Boys Library, small size, appears in Pocket Library #423 under title of "Dashing Bob." "Dr. Carver the Evil Spirit of the Plains", by Col. Prentice Ingraham appears as #86 large size Boys Library. Title changed only slightly when it is reprinted in Pocket Library #409, titled "Doctor Carver, the Champion Shot."

Among the purely fiction tales are Boys Library #17 "Peter Peppergrass, the Greenhorn from Gotham," changed in Pocket Library #393 to "Peter the Dandy Greenhorn." Small size Boys Library #68 "Little Rifle; or, the Young Fur Hunters" by Capt. Bruin Adams, becomes "Old Ruff's Protege" in Pocket Library #407.

Lack of space forbids that I give any more of the 40 or more changed titles, but in addition to the changed

titles, there are well over 100 Beadles Boys Library reprinted in Pocket Library, under their original titles. As a few examples I will list a few, giving Pocket Library numbers only. You can check for yourselves and see just what numbers appeared on them in Boys Library. (Pockets) #383 "Wild Bill, The Pistol Prince" by Col. Prentice Ingraham; #392 "Texas Jack the Mustang King" by Ingraham; #378 "Bronco Billy, the Saddle Prince," by Ingraham; #380 "Young Dick Talbot," by Albert W. Aiken; #400 "Black Horse Bill, the Bandit Wrecker," by Roger Starbuck; #415 "Pony the Cowboy Chief" by H. B. Stoddard; #382 "Wide Awake George the Boy Prince" by Edwards Willet; etc., etc.

Before me as I write I have a little pamphlet compiled and edited by a very good friend of mine, a Brotherhood member, titled "Altered Titles." Never as yet been printed, although it should be, as it is worth its weight in gold to Beadle collectors. My copy is wholly typewritten, surely a labor of love by my good friend, as it contains a list of hundreds of altered titles of Beadles items from their earlier booklet novels to the last of their black and white novels. And from it I have obtained the larger part of the data and information contained in this article. And before closing I want to quote from the preface to this little pamphlet. I quote as follows:

"Alteration in title and illustration, change in format, and juggling about of names and pen-names of authors to whom the tales are credited, must necessarily result in confusion. The fortunate owner of a mixed collection of novels as an example, may be seeking vainly for some title by some favorite author among Brotherhood Collectors, and may perchance be possessed of it under an altered title and unaware of the fact."

How true the quotation from that preface is, I have endeavored to bring out in my little article, to a small extent. Many of you seekers after Beadles Boys Library (both large and small editions) have perhaps been unaware of the fact that these same tales, might have been obtained from the last 100 or so issues of Beadles Pocket Library, either under original, or altered, title.

NOVELNUT NONSENSE

The rumor that our spark-plug, Bro. Cummings, sleeps with Hitler's autographed photo under his pillow, is a contemptible piece of libel. It is a photo of Miss Fuchsia Humperdinck, the butcher's fair daughter. Ralph does not aim to pine for a cutlet this side of the River Jordan.

CIRCUIT GLEANINGS: "Gone where the wild thyme blows" are Bro. Couch's whiskers. They got so that Bert couldn't see through them to spit.

Bro. Neighbors walks on his heels. There are blisters on Vic's toes. He is therefore retiring from business and the banana push-cart is for sale.

We helped ourselves to an apple from a pile on Bro. Schott's fruit-stand, labeled: "5-sense A peace" and wished Frank a long life. He has joined the Army.

It is gratifying to report that Bro. Erbe lost some hundreds of pounds on his reduction-diet of clabber and carrot-tops. While it still requires two piano-movers to hoist Bill on his bicycle, he swears that he never ate enough to keep a bird alive.

While Bro. Burns was napping in the shade of the old apple tree, his ancient mare, Penelope, sat down on Bill's Jake leg. The other one is arthritic. Bill's vocal reaction is still the talk of his neighbors in Rockland town.

In a tangle with an electric fan, Bro. Stone lost out. At ROUND-UP HOSPITAL and in a sepulchral whisper, Art will tell anybody who listens, all about it. We listened for two hours.

Some men have a way with women, but Bro. Rosenberg demonstrated that some women have a way with men. David, rumor has it, was observed reclining on the green-sward in a most careless attitude and with a large lady sitting on his neck. At least this martyr looked like David. Needless to add that an overdue laundry bill was paid then and there. The amount involved was 27 cents.

COMPLICATION: Bro. Frye is grievously perplexed. Aside from various Queens and such-like disturbing his digestive processes and thus keeping him awake when he should be asleep, a Miss McInty has come to town. Listen Bob; Lay off this pink-nose. Don't let Mary Ann Gash fall

too hard. She may not bounce.

WILL TRADE a brand new copy of GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES for a complete file of "TIP TOP WEEKLY." Write Bro. Nathan. (This may interest Bro. Guinon—Ed.) (Adt.)

We understand that Bro. Anderson has announced his intention of buying-up all novels in circulation, and has already purchased a copy of OLD CAP COLLIER Lby. This looks like serious business. Atta boy, Nate.

REPLY TO communication of Bro. Miller: No Cleve, we cannot print your cocktail recipe in this column. It's a pip but too many of us already look like our noses were skinned.

TO ILLUSTRATE Hitler's fate, Bro. Austin unleashed a terrible pivot-swung at nothing. Our Brother, who has been here a long, long time however, is growing brittle, and nearly broke in half. Charlie will be in circulation again by July.

We Finished the day at Brother French's beautiful villa with it's charming view up the alley. It was like the shade of a rock in a weary land. George borrowed our pipe. Also our tobacco. Likewise a match. We compared notes on the hobnails in our livers and the rattle of our gallstones, and agreed that our kidneys were gone, but wish to add our testimonial to Bro. Bragin's compound of seal-oil, tallow, moss-berries and fish-livers for all such ills.

LAST STOP! ALL OUT!

NEWSY NEWS

By Ye Editor

"Old Ferret, the New York Detective, or Tracking a Mysterious Crime," no author's name given, appeared in Vol. 1, No. 1, of The Hearthstone. Published at Philadelphia, Pa., November 25th, 1882. 16 pages, 11½ x 16¼ inches, 4 columns to the page, illustrated. Other stories, such as "Self-Condemed., or Two Lovers and a Wife," by Rebecca Forbes Sturgis; "True to Herself, or Ingreds Love Life," by Mrs. Ira E. Eastman, also the song "The Old Oaken Bucket." No. 2 is to be "Living a Lie, or The Terrible Secret," by Rett Winwood, whose right name is Colby.

Norman Alexander Hall is after Nick Carter short stories, such as The Blow of the Hammer and other stories; The Steel Casket and other stories, etc. etc. etc. Who can help

him out. He is No. 140, H.H.B.

Charles Jonas wants The Scout's League, in Boys Star or Boys of New York Pocket Library.

Quite a few of the boys have offered to take my place, should I be drafted. They are J. P. Guinon, Charles Bragin, Fred Pitzer, and also my printer—Miller Print Shop, Lawrence, Kansas. I'll keep all these fellows in mind, till I see how things will go.

They say that after No. 350 of Beadles Dime Library, deteriorates badly, if you fellows have noticed it. About the time that Doughty brought out the Old King Brady tales, and Old Cap Colliers, Old Sleuths, and New York Detective came out and had such good sales, Beadle decided to also drop Westerns and go in for detec. So he got his authors, who were trained only in writing WESTERNS, Mining Camp, Prairie Injun and Mountain tales, to write detec. They flopped, badly, as you all know. But now take the Beadles Half Dime Library after No. 350, and you'll find some mighty fine tales all the way along, except perhaps where Beadle tried his stuff out on bootblack detective tales. Take for instance the famous Badger "quartette," of the "Silverblade" tales, Nos. 723, 29, 30 and 48. And his trilogy on "Light-heart Lute," Nos. 698, 708 and 718. Then the line of "Buffalo Bill" tales to say nothing of "Deadwood Dick, Jr." tales, (which, though they do not compare at all with the original Daddy "Deadwood Dick" items, still hold a good kick). Then came a nice line of Oll Coomes "Kit Bandy" tales. That old "Half Dime" file is not to be lightly passed up by anybody, and is of more interest than the "Dime" after 350.

The Half Dime Library has also a reprint of a great many original Booklet novels; for instance, tales like Seth Jones, Antelope Abe, The Border King (which was "Foghorn Phil" in the Yellow-back booklet edition), etc., etc. The Beadles Pocket Library also contains some of these booklet-reprints, but the Boys Library (Beadles) is chock-full of them.

Out of curiosity, how many Beadle Dime Library of higher Nos. than 350 have been sold. It's a question. The Beadle detective stories in Dime Library were a flop.

Ye Editor has just heard from Earl

Farmer, R.F.D. #3, Lincolnton, N. C., twice to date, that he has turned over a new leaf, and wants to buy or trade novels. If any one does trade with him, Be Sure And Get Your Trade First, or if you sell, Be Sure And Get Your Money First. The same to Joe Grantham of Los Angeles, Ca..

George Barton says that he noticed in one of his copies of Frank Leslie's Boys and Girls Weekly, that Norman Munro ran a list of the first 152 numbers of New York Boys Library at 10c per copy. Exactly the same titles comprised the first 152 numbers of the 5c Wide Awake Library.

The titles of "Union Jack"—penny series, No. 1. "With Pick and Lamp," a 50,000 word coal mining story and a serial story "The Chums of Ashbourne School" by Allan Blair. No. 2 was "Captain Martin's Secret," No. 4 "Hunting Gold" by Cecil Hayter.

See in Noel Coward's Autobiography that he was an ardent reader of "Magnet Library" with Harry Whar-ton & Co.'s Adventures and "Gem" Library with Tom Merry & Co., together with Chums & Boys Own Paper.

The New Sports Budget, No. 1, October 6th, 1923. 2d. Nice picture cover, illustrated. 3 columns to page. Published by the Amalgamated Press (1923) Ltd., The Fleetway House, Farringdon St., London, E. C. 4, England. Titles "The Exploits of Picture Pete" by Bits from Bolton; "Picked from the Gutter" by Paul Mquhant; Down on the Game, etc. Some of these old timers hit the spot, don't they? Next issue we expect to have some news on a real old timer.

Herman Pitcher says 'Newsy News' is always juicy — sometimes spicy. Herm says that Albert Johannsen has a hard, tho interesting, task, writing up the Beadle and Adams—Biography. He's having as hard a time getting certain Beadle items as Herm is in getting the Charlotte M. Brame stories for his Biography on the Lupton authors. These two writers need lots of information yet. Herm says "Novelnut Nonsense" makes him chuckle all through it. They're rich slams on us all, mighty clever bean-rakings, so let the Roundup catch them all by all means. Herm also says that "Old Circuses and Weeklies is a pippin. Congratulations. Fred Orphall also says it's a corking good

story. He says he loves stories of real life, and other boyhood stories, articles, etc.

Just to keep the record straight on old time story papers, Bro. Barton says that Bro. U. G. Figley's article in the April Roundup needs a little revision. Frank Leslie stole the first Jack Harkaway stories from E. J. Bretts' "Boys of England" and reprinted them in his "Boys and Girls" Weekly. He used "Dick Lightheart" and others of Bretts' serials, in fact for the first few years of "Boys and Girls," he doesn't think Leslie's bill for serial stories amounted to anything. He stole from Bretts' publications during the entire life of the paper. He republished Jack Harkaway and Dick Lightheart in "Boys of America," a 64 page monthly publication. Street & Smith did issue "Boys of the World" in the late 1870's (I had a complete set of this paper at one time). Some good serials, but too much amateur writing was published. The other story papers for boys that Street & Smith issued were Good News, Army & Navy Weekly, Half Holiday, Boys of America. Golden Hours was Norman Munro's boys' paper. Street & Smith never had that title.

New York Boys was issued by the Champion Publishing Company under three titles—Harrigan & Harts New York Boys, Dick & Stechers New York Boys, and finally Leon LeRoy's New York Boys. Lasted about two years. Same company also published the Boys Champion.

This publishing company was established by Frank Tousey in an effort to control the field of boys' paper publishing. I know this is true for many of the stories were written by authors under pen-names that were owned absolutely by Tousey. Such as Paul Braddon, Howard DeVere, Corp. Morgan Rattler, etc.

The same firm also got out the Champion Library. "Our Boys" was first published by Norman Munro who bought the Boston owned "Boys Own" and incorporated with "Our Boys"—he sold the latter to Tousey who incorporated it with "The Young Men of America." George G. Small left Tousey because of illness and died shortly after—most stories supposed to be by him were by other authors. Bro. Figley is also mistaken

about the Nickel Libraries not having colored covers during the last World War. They ran their covers as usual.

Boy, Oh Boy, I never thought the 3 volumes of Argosy that were advertised in last Roundup would sell. They did, and I guess I could have sold them 8 or 10 times over.

Collection of Horror and Thrills, by L. Morgan, will appear in the July Number.

Here's some news that just came in:—Geo. Barton writes that he has noticed in past numbers of the Roundup, that there has been some confusion about the "New York Boys Library". The one published by Munro in the 1870's was the "New York Boys Library" and sold for ten cents. Tousey & Small bought it and re-issued all stories from No. 1 in the "Wide Awake Library," reducing the price to 5c. The one got out by the Popular Pub. Co., was "New York Boys Library", probably a successor to the story paper "New York Boys" by Harrigan & Hart, Dick & Stecher and Leon LeRoy.

COLE YOUNGER, JAMES BANDIT, DIES REFORMED

Served in Quantrell's Guerillas
Robbed Banks and Fought
Battles with Posses.

Lees Summit, Mo., March 21, 1916—Cole Younger, famous outlaw of border days, but of late years a devout church attendant and peaceful citizen, died at his home here to-night. He had been ill a long time. He was seventy-two years of age and unmarried.

Cole Younger was one of the last of the members of the notorious robber bands that infested the western Missouri during and after the Civil War. He was a member of the Quantrell band of guerrillas and with his two brothers, took part with the "James Boys" in bank and train robberies in Missouri and neighboring States that netted the looters more than a hundred thousand dollars.

The leading members of these bands are dead. Younger, after a term in the penitentiary, became a law abiding Missouri citizen.

In Quantrell's Raiders

Cole was the older of the three "Younger Boys." The father, Colonel Harry W. Younger, came to Missouri

from Kentucky before the war. He was a strong union man, though a slaveholder. He settled near Lees Summit, twenty miles from Kansas City, where Cole was born.

Colonel Younger was murdered by one of the hands of lawless guerrillas that infested the Missouri-Kansas border in war times.

The sons said their father was slain by the Kansans for the purpose of robbery. They immediately took up arms against the North. They joined Quantrell's guerrillas and had their part in the memorable sacking of Lawrence, Kansas.

When the war was ended they and the Jameses became outlaws.

Fought With Posses

Many sensational robberies for which the Younger and James boys were blamed was carried out successfully before the three Younger brothers were captured in Minnesota. They were arrested after a raid on a bank at Northfield, in 1876, in the course of which Cashier Haywood was killed. The Youngers were shot many times in battles with a posses, but finally were taken alive after a battle at Shieldsville, Minn.

Cole and his brothers pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison for life. They entered the penitentiary at Stillwater, Minn., and became model prisoners. Bob died in the penitentiary in 1889.

Cole and James Younger were paroled in 1901. The next year James shot himself, leaving a note ascribing his action to a refusal of the parole board to permit him to marry the girl he loved.

Cameron, Ga., June 1, 1892.

Mr. Frank Tousey;

Dear Sir:—I wrote you recently asking for a copy of THE BOYS OF NEW YORK. I have received the paper and read it.

"Like the odor of brine from the ocean. Comes the thoughts of other years."

I can say something which probably few of your present readers can say, namely: I read THE BOYS OF NEW YORK during the first three or four years of its publication.

It has been many years since then, and I now painfully realize the fact that I am no longer a youth. I saw many familiar names which brought

back to me pleasant memories. I have a good memory and, as I write, there flashes through my mind the stories of long ago: "Bluecap, the Australian Dick Turpin," "Harry Franco and His Flying Snip," "Tommy Bounce," "Little Mac, the Boy Engineer," "The Boy Fireman," "The Island of Mystery," "The Demon of the Deep," "The Steam Man of the Plains," and by the way, I see the immortal Frank Reade and the Shortys still adorn the paper.

I remember with what great pleasure I read the story of "Shorty; or, Kicked Into Good Luck." I was quite young when I read "George Rex, the King of Diamonds," and never since have I read anything else with equal pleasure. I can recall the fact that my youthful eyes were blurred, when the story ended and the four kings failed to rescue Napoleon from the island of St. Helena.

The kings had taken an oath to rescue Napoleon or perish in the attempt. I remember the first issue of THE NEW YORK BOYS' WEEKLY, which was finally consolidated with THE BOYS OF NEW YORK.

The first stories were "Tommy Dodd; or, Buncoed Everywhere," "Da hing Dick, the King of the Highway," "On His Own Hook," and "Tracked; or, The Mysterious 12." "The Red Circle," by Paul Braddon, was a story which filled my youthful mind with horror, yet since then I have indeed realized that "Truth is stranger than fiction." I noticed that Paul Braddon is still alive, but I did not see the names of Harry Enton, Edward De Vere, Peter Pad and Commodore Ah Look.

Probably some of them are dead. Many of my associates and companions who read the BOYS OF NEW YORK at the time of which I write, are now resting in their narrow homes.

Their gentle smiles have ceased—their cheery voices are silent. I look out of the window by which I am writing and can see the red hills and waving pines, and can hear the black birds whistling among the branches, but I am thinking of the time when I read THE BOYS OF NEW YORK and I would not b'ot out from my life the recollection of those hours.

I can think of one moonlight night when five of us young chaps walked

six miles to town to get our papers.

Probably some of you readers can recall similar experiences. I am now a middle-aged man. I take little or no pleasure in fiction of any sort. I am of good standing both socially and morally.

I defended THE BOYS OF NEW YORK in the days of my youth, and still have a good word for it. During the time I read it, nothing immoral was ever taught in its columns—the right was always advocated and the wrong condemned.

As I write I have in my mind a hypocritical preacher who denounced the paper from the pulpit and who tried to convince me of the paper's evil influence. He is now serving a life sentence in a penitentiary. I have the same faith in him now which I had then. I think I am now old enough to take a broad-minded view of everything. Reading THE BOYS OF NEW YORK never did me any harm. I believe it instilled in me the love of travel. I have spent many thousand dollars traveling and my life has been very pleasant. I have been to India, Australia, Borneo, New Zealand, Alaska, Mexico and all over the United States and expect to take in South America next winter.

Publish this letter in THE BOYS OF NEW YORK and send me a copy of it. I will close with a hope that this will be read by some of the old-timers and will also add these lines which I once saw quoted in THE BOYS OF NEW YORK:

"Here's a health to those who love me
And a smile for those who hate;
But whatever sky's above me,
Here's a heart for every fate."

Very truly, J. Currie Thompson.

P. S.—I would like to hear from any reader who recalls the stories I mentioned.

(Typed and sent in by H. O. Rawson)

Wm. Benners—

Full of the days when he was young and ran a roadshow of his own (not quite), under his stage name of Eric Braddon. He ran the first showing of the famous play "The Cricket on the Hearth," in this country.

(Sent in by Charles Austin).

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